

To: Distefano, Nichole[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov]
From: Harrison, Melissa
Sent: Thur 8/13/2015 2:24:16 AM
Subject: Re: Data

Hold just a minute. Waiting for final approval....

From: Distefano, Nichole
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 10:23 PM
To: Harrison, Melissa
Cc: Stanislaus, Mathy; Fritz, Matthew; Ostrander, David; Cheatham, Reggie; Natarajan, Nitin; Purchia, Liz; Reynolds, Thomas; Vaught, Laura
Subject: Re: Data

Thanks Melissa.

I will get this to Rebecca Russo in R8 and Carolyn in my office to get this out.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 12, 2015, at 10:21 PM, Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov> wrote:
>
> +Laura and Nichole
>
> Statement below. This is only CO data. The rest will be worked on and figured out tomorrow. This is approved here and cleared with the Sheriff and local officials. I'm just waiting for the PDF data charts for the web. I have my entire team standing by ready to push this out. I will need help getting this info out to Congressionals and I understand RAM would like to call the CO Gov.
>
> Interpretation of Water Metal Concentrations
>
> EPA initiated a sampling effort on Aug. 5, 2015, to assess the impacts of the blowout at the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colo. Surface water and sediment samples were collected at intervals beginning on Aug. 5, 2015. At a number of sampling locations, samples have been taken before the contaminant plume reached a sample location and can be used to characterize baseline metals concentrations, to identify the arrival of the plume and monitor the return of river concentrations to baseline conditions. Surface water samples have been analyzed for 24 metals, which include arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury and others. Those sampling efforts are ongoing. The data represent validated results of samples collected from Aug. 5 to Aug. 9, 2015. Although sediment sampling has also commenced, at this time the data analysis and validation are not complete and, therefore, the results will not be presented.
>
> The determination of lingering impacts to the river is based upon a comparison of detected metal concentrations after the plume passed a sampling location with site-specific background concentrations. Background values were defined for the Animas River from the Silverton, Colo. area to the Durango municipal water intake.
>
> Any detection that exceeded background levels was compared with screening criteria for recreational water use. In addition, they were compared to Colorado's criteria for agricultural use, including both ingestion by livestock and irrigation uses.
>
> Cement Creek and Animas River from Silverton to the Southern Colorado Boarder
>
> Surface water quality samples were collected from nine locations in Colorado. Two of these were from Cement Creek and seven were from the Animas River. These locations were selected because an historical dataset already exists for these locations. Therefore, they will serve as good indicators of

conditions before, during and after the event.

>

> The graphs identify trends in concentrations of some of these metals that have been detected historically in both Cement Creek and the Animas River. Each graph shows the trends in those concentrations between Aug. 5 and Aug. 9, 2015. Historical concentrations are not available for the 32nd Street Bridge location. The blowout occurred late in the morning on Aug. 5, 2015. The contaminant plume moved downstream at approximately four miles per hour. The trends over time and location represent the movement of the contamination of the water in the Animas River and show the recovery of the river at those same locations.

>

> The comparison of river metal concentrations after the plume has moved past these sampling points to pre-event conditions demonstrated that water quality returned to pre-event conditions. At this time, the sediment has not been fully analyzed nor have the data been validated.

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

> From: Stanislaus, Mathy

> Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 10:10 PM

> To: Harrison, Melissa

> Cc: Fritz, Matthew; Ostrander, David; Cheatham, Reggie; Natarajan, Nitin; Purchia, Liz; Reynolds, Thomas

> Subject: Re: Data

>

> Where are we? Should we have a call now - we need to clear and get statement put ASAP

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 8:21 PM, Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov> wrote:

>>

>> Thanks Mathy! Just wanted to ensure all other approvals had already happened.

>>

>> Melissa Harrison

>> Press Secretary

>> EPA

>> Office: (202) 564-8421

>> Mobile: (202) 697-0208

>> Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov

>>

>>

>>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 6:19 PM, Stanislaus, Mathy <Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov> wrote:

>>>

>>> Melissa: I believe that the JIC needs to connect with HQ PIO George Hull on this

>>>

>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>

>>>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 8:17 PM, Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov> wrote:

>>>>

>>>> Based on what I just reviewed I am comfortable with Matt's suggested language. We should have R9 shortly. I will then get UIC approval. Has the EOC at HQ already signed off?

>>>>

>>>> Melissa Harrison

>>>> Press Secretary

>>>> EPA

>>>> Office: (202) 564-8421
>>>> Mobile: (202) 697-0208
>>>> Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 6:04 PM, Stanislaus, Mathy <Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov> wrote:
>>>>>
>>>>> Lets work the messaging based on this data. Region 9 data is just background at the moment. If we have to go without reg 9 can message it.
>>>>>
>>>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>>>
>>>>>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 8:00 PM, Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov> wrote:
>>>>>>
>>>>>> We just received info on R6 and R8 but still waiting on R9. Reviewing language we have now.
>>>>>>
>>>>>>> Melissa Harrison
>>>>>>> Press Secretary
>>>>>>> EPA
>>>>>>> Office: (202) 564-8421
>>>>>>> Mobile: (202) 697-0208
>>>>>>> Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 5:44 PM, Stanislaus, Mathy <Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov> wrote:
>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>> Melissa: please check with the environmental unit in UAC. I've confirmed with Chris Ruhl the data from region
>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>> Sent from my regions 8 and 6 are there and have been cleared with
>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 7:37 PM, Fritz, Matthew <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov> wrote:
>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>> Folks
>>>>>>>>> We need to get this done - NM is poised to announce that they are opening the river.
>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 7:33 PM, Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov> wrote:
>>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>>> Mathy- The UAC-JIC has not seen anything on data from any region. We have no info on which to base any messaging. I was told that HQ and the regions were working together to give us something to review. We need to see what they want to post and what it means.
>>>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>>>> Melissa Harrison
>>>>>>>>>>>> Press Secretary
>>>>>>>>>>>> EPA
>>>>>>>>>>>> Office: (202) 564-8421
>>>>>>>>>>>> Mobile: (202) 697-0208
>>>>>>>>>>>> Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov
>>>>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>>>>> On Aug 12, 2015, at 5:17 PM, Stanislaus, Mathy <Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov> wrote:
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> Matt: Just left a message - I understand data for 8 and 6 have been reviewed and we're good. I understand that 9 has sent or should be sending to UAC shortly. UAC-JIC should be developing

the message now.

>>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>> -----Original Message-----

>>>>>>>>> From: Fritz, Matthew

>>>>>>>>> Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:01 PM

>>>>>>>>> To: Ostrander, David; Harrison, Melissa

>>>>>>>>> Cc: Stanislaus, Mathy; Cheatham, Reggie

>>>>>>>>> Subject: Data

>>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>> Can you give me a head's when we are getting ready to share the data so that the
Administrator can place a call.

>>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>>>